

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
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TO : [REDACTED] Office of National
Estimates
FROM : Chief, Nuclear Energy Division, SI
SUBJECT: Contribution to Revision of SE-14

DATE: 20 February 1953

1. We transmit herewith a copy of a contribution to revised SE-14. It is noted that this contribution deletes from the paragraphs relevant to atomic weapons, the sentence which reads: "It is possible, therefore, that by the end of the period of this estimate the USSR will be approaching a period in which the availability of weapons may not be the sole limiting factor in the scale of an attack which could be launched against the United States." It was the consensus of the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee that it was not appropriate to include this sentence in the summary of the atomic weapons situation as it expressed a conclusion based upon a great number of factors, including availability of aircraft, trained crews, navigation equipment, other weapons, and the like, none of which are within the cognizance of the Committee.

2. The JAEIC noted paragraph 24 bearing the heading Atomic Weapons under the main heading of Clandestine Delivery included in the preliminary draft prepared by ONE. It was the opinion of the members of the Committee that this paragraph was inappropriately worded in certain aspects which would normally fall within the cognizance of the Committee. A contribution is now being prepared and should be available during the early part of the week of February 23, 1953, covering these matters.

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Att.